

§ 52.45

§ 52.45 Nonappearance.

An applicant who fails without good cause to appear in person or by counsel at the appointed date, time, and place for hearing, is deemed to have waived the right to a hearing. The application is then considered by the Board on the basis of all the material of record.

Subpart F—Procedure at Hearings

§ 52.51 Conduct of hearing.

(a) The Chairman or the Chairman's designee shall conduct a hearing so as to ensure a full and fair presentation of the evidence.

(b) The hearing is not limited by legal rules of evidence but reasonable standards of competency, relevancy, and materiality are observed for the receipt and consideration of evidence.

(c) All testimony shall be given under oath or affirmation.

§ 52.52 Record of hearing.

A hearing pursuant to this subpart in open session shall be recorded verbatim and, at the discretion of the Board or direction of the Secretary, shall be transcribed.

Subpart G—Judgment and Disposition

§ 52.61 Deliberations and decision.

(a) The Board is convened at the call of the Chairman and its meetings are recessed or adjourned by order of the Chairman. Only members of the Board and its staff may be present during the deliberations of the Board. The Board's deliberations are conducted in executive session and are not reported.

(b) When the Board finds that the facts have not been fully and fairly disclosed by the records, testimony, and any other evidence before the Board, the Board may request the applicant and/or the Coast Guard to obtain and submit such further evidence as it considers essential to a complete and impartial understanding of the facts and issues.

(c) An applicant may submit to the board any further evidence relevant to an application at any time prior to final action. The Chairman shall accept any such submission if, and only

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if, the applicant agrees that § 52.68 shall not apply to the case.

(d) Following the receipt of all evidence, the Chairman shall cause to be prepared and shall submit to the Board for its consideration a draft decision containing proposed findings and conclusions and a proposed order. A majority vote of the members of the board present at a meeting on any matter relating to a draft decision before the Board shall constitute the action of the Board. If a draft decision is approved by the Board, it shall become a decision of the Board.

(e) The decision of the Board shall specify with particularity any change, correction, or modification of records to be made by the Coast Guard, and any other action deemed necessary to carry out the Board's recommendation.

(f) If the Board deems it necessary to submit a comment or recommendation to the Secretary as to a matter arising from, but not directly related to, the issues in a case, it does so by separate communication.

§ 52.62 Minority report.

In case of disagreement among Board members, a minority report may be submitted dissenting from or concurring with the decision of the Board.

§ 52.63 Record of proceedings.

The Board shall prepare a complete record of each proceeding. The record shall include the application for relief; the written views of the Coast Guard, if any; any transcript of testimony; affidavits and documents considered by the Board; briefs and written arguments filed in the case; the findings, decisions, and recommendations of the Board; minority reports, if any; and all other materials necessary to reflect a true and complete history of the proceedings.

§ 52.64 Final action.

(a) The Board, provided that it acts unanimously, may take final action on behalf of the Secretary, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1552, as follows:

(1) The Board may deny an application for the correction of military records.

(2) Unless the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard, in submitting its views

pursuant to § 52.82(c), states that the application involves a significant issue of Coast Guard policy, the Board may approve an application for the correction of military records in any of the following categories:

(i) An application to correct an enlistment or reenlistment contract or agreement to extend an enlistment for the purpose of effecting or increasing entitlement to a Selective Reenlistment Bonus;

(ii) An application to modify an election to participate in the Survivor Benefit Plan;

(iii) An application to change a reenlistment eligibility code;

(iv) An application to correct the character of, or reason for, a discharge or separation.

(3) The Board may approve any application for correction of military records not falling into one of the categories in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, if the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard recommends the same or substantially same relief as that requested by the applicant.

(b) Except in cases where the Board takes final action under paragraph (a) of this section, the Board shall forward the record of its proceedings to the Secretary for approval, disapproval, or return for additional consideration. After taking final action, the Secretary shall return the record to the Board for disposition.

§ 52.65 Orders.

(a) The Board shall issue such orders or directives as may be necessary to carry out a final action.

(b) The Board may ask the Coast Guard to submit a written report to the Board specifying the action taken and the date thereof with respect to any final action.

(c) Unless doing so is likely to nullify the relief granted, copies of the final decision shall be placed in the military record of the applicant.

§ 52.66 Notification.

Subject to Department of Transportation regulations, the Board shall transmit to the applicant a copy of a decision. The applicant may inspect the record of proceedings at Board offices.

§ 52.67 Reconsideration.

(a) Reconsideration of an application for correction of a military record shall occur if an applicant requests it and the request meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section.

(1) An applicant presents evidence or information that was not previously considered by the Board that could result in a determination other than that originally made. Evidence or information may only be considered if it could not have been presented to the Board prior to its original determination if the applicant had exercised reasonable diligence; or

(2) An applicant presents evidence or information that the Board, or the Secretary as the case may be, committed legal or factual error in the original determination that could have resulted in a determination other than that originally made.

(b) The Chairman shall docket a request for reconsideration of a final decision if it meets the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section. If neither of these requirements is met, the Chairman shall not docket such request.

(c) The Board shall consider each application for reconsideration that has been docketed. None of the Board members who considered an applicant's original application for correction shall participate in the consideration of that applicant's application for reconsideration.

(d) Action by the Board on a docketed application for reconsideration is subject to § 52.64(b).

(e) An applicant's request for reconsideration must be filed within two years after the issuance of a final decision, except as otherwise required by law. If the Chairman docketed an applicant's request for reconsideration, the two-year requirement may be waived if the Board finds that it would be in the interest of justice to consider the request despite its untimeliness.

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§ 52.68 Time limit for final action.

Final action on an application for correction of a military record shall be